

C L A I M S

1. A carriage comprising:

an electrically conductive frame disposed near
an original surface of a substantially horizontally
5 set original, and extending in a first direction in
parallel with the original surface;

a cold cathode fluorescent lamp for illuminating
the original surface, the cold cathode fluorescent lamp
extending in the first direction and being disposed on
10 the frame;

an optical member for guiding reflection light
reflected by the original surface; and

a lighting circuit, attached to one end portion of
the frame near a positive electrode of the cold cathode
15 fluorescent lamp, for lighting the cold cathode
fluorescent lamp.

2. A carriage according to claim 1, wherein
a weight for stabilizing a weight balance in the first
direction is attached on a side of the other end
20 portion of the frame, which is distanced from the
lighting circuit in the first direction.

3. A carriage according to claim 2, wherein said
weight comprises an original size sensor for sensing
a size of the original.

4. A carriage according to claim 1, wherein
a wall thickness of said one end portion of the frame
is less than a wall thickness of the other end portion

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of the frame, which is distanced from the lighting circuit in the first direction, thereby to stabilize a weight balance in the first direction.

5. A carriage comprising:

5 a frame disposed near an original surface of a substantially horizontally set original, and extending in a first direction in parallel with the original surface;

10 a cold cathode fluorescent lamp for illuminating the original surface, the cold cathode fluorescent lamp extending in the first direction and being disposed on the frame;

 an optical member for guiding reflection light reflected by the original surface;

15 a lighting circuit, attached to one end portion of the frame near a positive electrode of the cold cathode fluorescent lamp, for lighting the cold cathode fluorescent lamp; and

20 a weight for stabilizing a weight balance in the first direction, said weight being attached on a side of the other end portion of the frame, which is distanced from the lighting circuit in the first direction.

25 6. A carriage according to claim 5, wherein said frame has electrical conductivity.

 7. A carriage according to claim 5, wherein said weight comprises an original size sensor for sensing

a size of the original.

8. A carriage according to claim 5, wherein
a wall thickness of said one end portion of the frame
is less than a wall thickness of the other end portion
5 of the frame, which is distanced from the lighting
circuit in the first direction, thereby to stabilize
a weight balance in the first direction.

9. A scanner unit comprising:

10 a carriage, which includes an electrically
conductive frame disposed near an original surface of
a substantially horizontally set original, and
extending in a first direction in parallel with the
original surface; a cold cathode fluorescent lamp for
illuminating the original surface, the cold cathode
15 fluorescent lamp extending in the first direction and
being disposed on the frame; an optical member for
guiding reflection light reflected by the original
surface; a lighting circuit, attached to one end
portion of the frame near a positive electrode of the
20 cold cathode fluorescent lamp, for lighting the cold
cathode fluorescent lamp; and a weight for stabilizing
a weight balance in the first direction, said weight
being attached on a side of the other end portion of
the frame, which is distanced from the lighting circuit
25 in the first direction;

two rails extending along the original surface in
a second direction perpendicular to the first

direction, the two rails supporting both the end portions of the frame such that the frame may slide in the second direction; and

light receiving means for receiving the reflection light guided by the optical member.

10. A carriage according to claim 9, wherein said weight comprises an original size sensor for sensing a size of the original.

11. A carriage according to claim 9, wherein a wall thickness of said one end portion of the frame is less than a wall thickness of the other end portion of the frame, which is distanced from the lighting circuit in the first direction, thereby to stabilize a weight balance in the first direction.